(c) and (d) Under article 141 of the Constitution, the law laid down by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts within the territory of India. Therefore, the foreign matrimonial judgements would be recognised and enforced by the Indian courts in the light of the aforesaid decision of the Supreme Court.

Surplus transferred by RBI to Union Government

2414. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the surplus profit transferred by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the Union Government has remained constant at Rs. 210 crores for a decade now;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Not now, Sir.

(b) The surplus profits transferred to Central Government by the Reserve Bank of India remained at Rs. 210 crores upto 1990-91. This was because of the increase in expenditure of the Bank mainly due to higher interest payments to scheduled commercial banks on their deposits and larger transfer of profits to long term operation funds to finance the requirements of industry and agriculture. For 1991-92, the Reserve Bank has agreed to transfer Rs. 350 crores to Government.

(c) As stated in answer to part (b).

[Translation]

Smuggling of Black Stones from Bihar

2415. SHRI SIMON MARANDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the black stones are smuggled to Bangladesh from Sahebganj district of Santhal Pargana area in Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check smuggling of these precious stones;

(c) the number of persons held for smuggling, against whom caseswere filed in the Court and those who have been prosecuted in this connection during the last three years; and

(d) the value of black stone confiscated from these persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (d) Instances of such smuggling of Black stones from Sahebganj district of Santhal Parganas area in Bihar have not been reported. Anti-smuggling agencies have, however, been alerted.

[English]

Criteria for declaring State Highway as National Highways

2416. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM } : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the criteria adopted by the Government to declare any State Highway as a National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : The criteria for selection of New National Highways are as under :—

(i) roads which run through the length and breadth of the country;

(ii) roads connecting adjacent countries;

(iii) roads connecting State capitals;

(iv) roads connecting major ports and important industrial and tourist centres;

(v) roads meeting very important strategic requirements;

(vi) roads carrying high density of traffic over an adequate length; and

(vii) roads which will enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achievement of substantial economies thereby.

However, besides these criteria, the declaration of new National Highways is also governed by certain other factors *viz.* availability of resources, recommendations of the N.T.P.C. (National Transport Policy Committee), *inter-se* priority of a road on all-India basis, proximity to other National Highways in the area, etc.

Construction of Varapuzha Bridge on National Highway No. 17 in Ernakulam

2417. PROF. SAVITRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned the Varapuzha bridge on National Highway No. 17 in Ernakulam district, Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the land acquisition process has been completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Land acquisition for approaches on both sides of the bridge has to be completed before the estimate for the bridge can be sanctioned.

Recognition of Export Houses

2418. SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies recognised as export houses till April 30, 1991;

(b) the number and names of the companies given recognition as export houses in the engineering and diesel engine sector; and

(c) the special benefits the export houses will get under the new trade policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The number of valid Export Houses as on 30th April, 1991, is 665.

(b) The names of export houses exporting the goods of engineering sector and diesel engine sector are tabulated in the statement enclosed.

(c) In the new Trade Policy, as announced on 4-7-1991, the Export Houses will be eligible to get additional REP licences at the rate of 5% of their FOB admissible, on prospective basis i.e., for the exports for the year 1991-92 the additional REP licences will become due on or after 1-4-1992 and will be governed by new Trade Policy. The details of this policy and the issues related to its coverage of special sectors are being worked out.

Statement

Names of Export Houses exporting goods of Engineering Sector and Diesel Engine Sector

Sl. No.	Name of the Company
1.	M/s Addison & Company Ltd., Madras.
2.	M/s Agra Engineering Co., Bombay.
3.	M/s Akai Impex Limited, Bombay.
4.	M/s Allen & Alvan (Private) Limited, Aligarh.
5.	M/s Ambika Forgins, Jalandhar.
6.	M/s American Dry Fruit Stores, Bombay.
7.	M/s Ashok Layland Limited, Madras.